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# UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))

Attorney Docket No. 35.C13749

First Named Inventor or Application Identifier

JUNICHI MORI

Express Mail Label No.

 05/38392  
 08/26/99  
 15518

## APPLICATION ELEMENTS

See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents

☐ Fee Transmittal Form  
 (Submit an original, and a duplicate for fee processing)

 2. ☒ Specification Total Pages **68**

 3. ☒ Drawing(s) (35 USC 113) Total Sheets **13**

 4. ☒ Oath or Declaration Total Pages **1**
a. ☐ Newly executed (original or copy)b. ☒ Unexecuted for information purposes
 c. ☐ Copy from a prior application (37 CFR 1.63(d))  
 (for continuation/divisional with Box 17 completed)  
**[Note Box 5 below]**
i. ☐ **DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)**
 Signed Statement attached deleting inventor(s)  
 named in the prior application, see 37 CFR  
 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).

 5. ☐ Incorporation By Reference (useable if Box 4c is checked)  
 The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which a copy of the  
 oath or declaration is supplied under Box 4c, is considered as being  
 part of the disclosure of the accompanying application and is hereby  
 incorporated by reference therein

## ADDRESS TO:

 Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
 Box Patent Application  
 Washington, DC 20231
6. ☐ Microfiche Computer Program (Appendix)
 7. Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission  
 (if applicable, all necessary)
a. ☐ Computer Readable Copyb. ☐ Paper Copy (identical to computer copy)c. ☐ Statement verifying identity of above copies

## ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS

8. ☐ Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s))
 9. ☐ 37 CFR 3.73(b) Statement ☐ Power of Attorney  
 (when there is an assignee)
10. ☐ English Translation Document (if applicable)
 11. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)/PTO-1449 ☐ Copies of IDS  
 Citations
12. ☐ Preliminary Amendment
 13. ☒ Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503)  
 (Should be specifically itemized)

 14. ☐ Small Entity ☐ Statement filed in prior application  
 Statement(s) Status still proper and desired

 15. ☐ Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)  
 (if foreign priority is claimed)

 16. ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

17. If a CONTINUING APPLICATION, check appropriate box and supply the requisite information:

☐ Continuation ☐ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No. \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

## 18. CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

☒ Customer Number or Bar Code Label

05514

(Insert Customer No. or Attach bar code label here)

or ☐ Correspondence address below

NAME

Address

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State

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CLAIMS	(1) FOR	(2) NUMBER FILED	(3) NUMBER EXTRA	(4) RATE	(5) CALCULATIONS
	TOTAL CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(c))	12-20 =	0	X \$ 18.00 =	0
	INDEPENDENT CLAIMS (37 cfr 1.16(b))	3-3 =	0	X \$ 78.00 =	0
	MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIMS (if applicable) (37 CFR 1.16(d))			\$260.00 =	0
				BASIC FEE (37 CFR 1.16(a))	\$760.00
	Total of above Calculations =				\$760.00
	Reduction by 50% for filing by small entity (Note 37 CFR 1.9, 1.27, 1.28).				
	TOTAL =				\$760.00

## 19. Small entity status

- a. ☐ A Small entity statement is enclosed
- b. ☐ A small entity statement was filed in the prior nonprovisional application and such status is still proper and desired.
- c. ☐ Is no longer claimed.

20. ☒ A check in the amount of \$ 760.00 to cover the filing fee is enclosed.21. ☐ A check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to cover the recordal fee is enclosed.

## 22. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to credit overpayments or charge the following fees to Deposit Account No. 06-1205:

- a. ☒ Fees required under 37 CFR 1.16.
- b. ☒ Fees required under 37 CFR 1.17.
- c. ☐ Fees required under 37 CFR 1.18.

## SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

NAME

L. P. DIANA

SIGNATURE

L. P. DIANA 29/96

DATE

August 25, 1999

/PAP

Printing System, Method For  
Controlling Printing System,  
And Computer-Readable Memory Medium

5 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a printing system  
in which a host device and a printer are connected via  
a communication medium and a print job produced in said  
10 host device is transferred to said printer to execute  
printing, a method for controlling the system, and a  
computer-readable memory medium which stores a control  
program for the system.

Related Background Art

15 Heretofore, as an output device for performing  
output processing of a host device such as a computer  
or a facsimile device, there has been a printer having  
a plurality of paper output places such as finishers  
and mailboxes. Also, there is a printer having a paper  
20 output place capable of stacking 500 sheets or more.

In case of a printer having a plurality of paper  
output places, a user (or an application of the host  
device) can specifically designate which paper output  
place he or she likes to output to. Also, if he or she  
25 does not particularly specifically designate, the host  
device side or printer side automatically outputs to  
any paper output place. Also, even in case that he or

she specifically designate a paper output place, if the paper output place is filled with output papers, there is also a printer that automatically outputs to another paper output place.

5           There is a printer that is provided with an output  
paper stack quantity detection sensor at each paper  
output place, and there is also a case of being able to  
recognize whether or not papers output to the paper  
output place remains. In that case, if a user removes  
10 the papers placed on the paper output place, it can be  
recognized by the above output paper stack quantity  
detection sensor.

Also, there are many cases that a plurality of host computers uses a printer in common in a network environment. In that case, it is not unusual that they use a plurality of printers in common.

As the above, the paper output system itself of the printer has become complex differently from old one having a single paper output place. Also, if, in addition to that there are pluralities of hosts and printers in an environment, it is designed such as to perform some automatic control on outputting papers, there is the possibility that a user can not find which printer of a plurality of printers the output result which he or she has surely output, or even in case that he or she knows which printer, he or she forgot or can not find which paper output place it has been output

to. In that case, there is the problem that hunting up the aimed printed result requires the more labor the more the system becomes complex.

Also, in view of the above problem, since printers  
5 can at least recognize the paper output place of the output destination of each print job, it may be possible to store this information in a memory, and inform the paper output destination in response to a user's inquiry or the like. However, for example, if  
10 information on all output jobs is maintained for any length of time, it requires infinite memory for maintaining. This is quite not a realistic method.

#### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

15 The first aspect of the present invention is to solve the above problem and provide a printing system in which a user of a host device can clearly know;  
•at which paper output place and  
•in which printer  
20 the printed results that the user will output (or has output) are output (or has output).

Accordingly, the second aspect of the present invention to provide a printing system in which the memory resources are not wasted wastefully, information  
25 on paper output destination of a job is managed suitably, a host device or a user of it can be notified in case of need, the information on paper output

destination on a job or information on the whole of jobs can be suitably eliminated when it becomes useless, and thereby a realistic job management can be performed.

5 For solving the above aspects, in the present invention, in a printing system in which a host device and a printer are connected via a communication medium and a print job produced in said host device is transferred to said printer to execute printing, a method for controlling the system, and a computer-readable memory medium which stores a control program for the system, the construction is employed that:

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paper output place information on the paper output place used in said print job is registered in memory means when the print job is completed;

15

paper output place information on a designated print job is retrieved from said memory means in accordance with a request from said host device; and

the paper output place information on the designated print job obtained by said retrieval is informed to a user of said host device.

20

Also, in the present invention, the construction is employed that the paper output place information of the print job having used the corresponding paper output place is eliminated from said memory means when papers are removed from the paper output place of said printer.

25

Also, in the present invention, the construction is employed that said registration or said retrieval is executed in said printer, or said registration or said retrieval is executed in said host device.

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#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is a block diagram explaining the construction of a printing system in the first embodiment of the present invention;

10 Fig. 2 is a sectional view explaining the printer engine of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is an explanation view showing an example of print data described in JL (job control language);

15 Fig. 4 is an explanation view showing an example of JL inquiry data transmitted from a host to a printer;

Fig. 5 is an explanation view showing an example of answer data transmitted from the printer to the host;

20 Fig. 6 is an explanation view showing an example of the contents of current job information;

Fig. 7 is an explanation view showing an example of the contents of a job information table;

25 Fig. 8 is an explanation view showing an example of the contents of a job information table;

Fig. 9 is an explanation view showing an example of the contents of a job information table;

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# DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Hereinafter, The present invention will be described in detail on the basis of the embodiments shown in the drawings.

5 [First Embodiment]

Fig. 1 is a block diagram showing the construction of a printing system in the first embodiment of the present invention. The printing system of this embodiment has the construction in which a host  
10 computer (hereinafter host) 100 and a printer 150 are connected via a predetermined communication medium 190.

Here, the host 100 comprises an application 101, a printer driver 102, an I/F (interface) driver 103, a utility 104, an output buffer 105, and an input buffer  
15 106. Also, it comprises a not-shown keyboard, a not-shown mouse, a not-shown display, etc.

An operating system is working in the host 100. The application 101 that operates thereon provides a graphic user interface to a user, and produces image  
20 data suitable for the user's purpose. The application 101 is for executing document-processing, image-editing, transmission and reception of various data, etc. Image data is produced upon that from data in a format of character, image and others, in accordance  
25 with the purpose of an application.

The printer driver 102 is incorporated in part of the operating system or the like as part of library,

kernel or the like. It is for converting image data produced by the application 101 into data in page description language (hereinafter PDL) printable in the printer 150.

5           The I/F driver 103 is for making communication in two ways with the printer 150 on print data and control data. It transmits data stored in the output buffer 105 to the printer 150. Further, the I/F driver 103 receives data transmitted from the printer 150 and  
10       stores it in the input buffer 106. The utility 104 provides a graphic user interface to a user. Via the graphic user interface, it gives information obtained from the printer 150 to the user, or changes the setting of the environment of the printer 150 in  
15       accordance with the user's demand.

          Besides, the communication medium 190 comprises IEEE 1284 (a parallel interface called Centronics system or the like from old times), a serial interface such as RS232C, a LAN such as Ethernet, or the like.  
20       The I/F driver 103 and an I/F driver 151 of the printer 150 described later that meet the construction of this communication medium 190 are used.

          The output buffer 105 of the host 100 is for temporarily storing print data produced by the printer  
25       driver 102, and control data such as an inquiry in job language (hereinafter referred to as JL in short) produced by the utility 104. The specification of JL

will be described later in detail.

On the other hand, the input buffer 106 is for temporarily storing data received by the I/F driver 103 from the printer 150. In the present invention, it is  
5 used for storing data received from another host or the like, as well as data obtained from the printer 150 through the control of the above JL.

Among the above, the application 101, utility 104, or part of the printer driver 102 or I/F driver 103 is  
10 implemented by software of a controller 1000 comprising a CPU, etc., of the host computer. The controller 1000 includes a memory 1001 comprising a ROM, a RAM, or an external storing device such as a hard disc. The above software is stored in this memory 1001 and executed  
15 thereon. The above output and input buffers 105 and 106 are physically assigned to proper regions in the memory 1001.

On the other hand, the printer 150 comprises an I/F driver 151 constructed in the same specification as  
20 that on the host side, a JL parser 152 for interpreting and executing JL, a PDL translator 153 for interpreting and executing PDL, an engine controller 154 for controlling a printer engine, the printer engine 155, an output buffer 156 and an input buffer 157 for  
25 transmitting and receiving data between it and the host, and a page buffer 158 used in producing image data deliverable to the printer engine 155.

Also, the printer 150 comprises a job information table 159 storing job information for managing print jobs requested from the host, and current job information 160.

5        Each of the above buffers, table and job information means a storage region assigned on memory means of an external storage device such as a semiconductor memory device or a hard disc, or the data itself.

10        The I/F driver 151 of the above printer 150 makes communication with the host 100 on print data and control data. That is, it receives print data and control data transmitted from the host 100, and transmits data stored in the output buffer 156 to the  
15        host 100.

The JL parser 152 interprets received data and executes processing in relation to the command of JL.

The PDL translator 153 interprets the portion of PDL data among print data and converts it into image  
20        data (described in a bit map format or the like). The image data converted here is stored in the page buffer 158.

The input buffer 157 temporarily stores all data received by the I/F driver 151 and functions as a  
25        buffer for the succeeding processing. Also, the output buffer 156 is for temporarily storing data produced by the JL parser 152.

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The engine controller 154 delivers image data stored in the page buffer 158 to the printer engine 155 with viewing the timing of communication with the host and printing of the printer engine 155. Also, in this  
5 embodiment, the engine controller 154 designates a paper output place to which a printed result is to be output, to the printer engine 155 with reference to current job information 160.

The printer engine 155 receives image data from  
10 the engine controller 154, and performs printing on a medium such as a paper by a known printing method (such as an electrophotographic method or an ink jet method). Further, it outputs the above medium into the paper output place designated from the engine controller 154.  
15 The construction of this printer engine 155 will be described later in more detail using Fig. 2.

As current job information 160, job information on the job that the printer engine 155 is printing is temporarily stored.

20 As the job information table 159, a plurality of pieces of job information on the jobs that the printer engine 155 had already printed is stored.

Among the above, part of the JL parser 152, PDL translator 153, engine controller 154, I/F driver 151, or the like, is implemented by software of a controller  
25 1500 comprising a CPU, etc., of the printer 150. The controller 1500 includes a memory 1501 comprising a

ROM, a RAM, or an external storing device such as a hard disc. The above software is stored in this memory 1501 and executed thereon. Also, the above output and input buffers 156 and 157, the regions 159 and 160 for storing job information, or the page buffer 158 is assigned to a proper region in the memory 1501.

Next, the construction of the printer engine 155 in Fig. 1 will be described using Fig. 2. Here, a printer engine of an electrophotographic method is exemplified. However, the printing method itself can be a method other than the electrophotographic method, not limiting the present invention.

Fig. 2 is a sectional view explaining the construction of the printer engine 155, in which the same reference is given to the same one as that in Fig. 1.

In the drawing, reference 280 denotes a control panel comprising a display unit such as a liquid crystal panel display for displaying information on a state of the printer 100 or the like as character strings (or figures or the like), various operation buttons for a user performing various operations to the printer 100, LEDs for informing the user of the paper input place, paper output place, on-line/off-line, or the like, etc.

Reference 230 denotes a paper cassette holding recording papers S and having a system for electrically

detecting the size of the recording papers S with a sensor or the like for detecting the position or the like of a not-shown partition.

Reference 231 denotes a cassette feed clutch that  
5 is a cam separating only the uppermost one of the recording papers S placed on the paper cassette 230, and conveying the separated recording paper S to feed rollers 204 by not-shown driving means. It rotates intermittently every time a paper is fed, so that one  
10 recording paper is fed by one rotation of it. Reference 230s denotes a recording paper detection sensor detecting a quantity (remaining quantity) of the recording papers S held on the paper cassette 230.

A resist shutter 227 is provided at the entrance  
15 of an image recording section 207 disposed in the central portion of the device. This resist shutter 227 is for pressing a paper to stop paper-feeding.

The printer 150 of this embodiment can feed papers from three directions of the paper cassette 230, a  
20 paper deck option unit (the lower portion of the device) 281 described later, and a manual feed tray 202.

The feed rollers 204 are for conveying the leading edge of a recording paper S taken out the paper  
25 cassette 230 to the resist shutter 227.

Also, the manual feed tray 202 is used for taking a manually fed recording paper S in. And, a manual

feed clutch 203 operates to convey the recording paper S placed on the manual feed tray 202 to the resist shutter 227.

Reference 233 denotes option feed rollers (feed relay conveying rollers) for supplying a recording paper S fed from the paper feed (paper deck) option unit 281 into the main body of the printer 150.

A resist roller pair 205 for synchronously conveying a recording paper S is provided downstream of the above manual feed roller 203, cassette feed clutch 231, and option feed rollers 233 for feeding papers from the above three directions. The image recording section 207 is provided downstream of the resist rollers.

This image recording section 207 forms a toner image on a recording paper S by a known electrophotographic process with a laser beam emitted from a laser scanner 206.

A laser unit 215 of the laser scanner 206 generates a laser beam on the basis of video signal (VDO signal) sent out from a video controller (not shown) in a control unit 284. The laser beam emitted from this laser unit 215 is scanned by a polygon mirror 216 to form a latent image on a photosensitive drum 220 via a group of focussing lenses 218 and a reflecting mirror 219. A beam detector 217 of the laser scanner 206 detects a laser beam emitted from the laser unit

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215 to output main scanning synchronization signal. A luminous sensor 270 detects a light quantity of the laser beam emitted from the laser unit 215.

On the other hand, a primary electrifier 222 of  
5 the image recording section 207 evenly charges on the photosensitive drum 220. A developer 223 is charged by the primary electrifier 222 and exposed to a laser beam by the laser scanner 206 to develop with toner a latent image formed on the photosensitive drum 220.

10 Reference 224 denotes a transcription electrifier transcribing a toner image on the photosensitive drum 220 developed by the developer 223, onto a recording paper S fed by the resist rollers 205. A cleaner 225 is for removing toner remaining on the photosensitive  
15 drum 220. A pre-exposure lamp 221 is for discharging the photosensitive drum 220 with lights.

Reference 208 denotes a fixer for fixing a toner image formed on a recording paper S by the image recording section 207, to the recording paper S.  
20 Conveying rollers 210 conveys the fixed recording paper S to output it out of the device.

A paper output sensor 209 provided at the position of the conveying rollers 210 is for detecting a state of outputting a recording paper S.

25 The printer 150 of this embodiment can perform paper-outputting to a paper output option unit 285 described later or a paper output tray 213 in the upper

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the main body of the printer 150 will be described. In this embodiment, a paper deck option unit 281 is provided in the lower portion of the device, and a paper output option (finisher unit) 285 is provided as a paper output system. These option units are constructed such that, after they are bought as options of the product, they can be later-attached to the printer 150.

For this purpose, a printer 150 option controller (not shown) is provided within the main body of the printer 150 shown in Fig. 2, and can communicate in the same protocol via an option unit interface that various option units are as a common bus. Also, the option controller is connected to a video controller (not shown) via a control interface.

In the paper feed option 281 such as a paper deck option unit, reference 241 denotes a paper deck stacking recording papers S on a deck going up and down. This paper deck option unit stacks a large number of recording papers S and is mainly used for decreasing the frequency of supplying papers.

Reference 242 denotes a paper deck feed roller for taking a stacked recording paper S from the paper deck 241.

Reference 244 denotes conveying rollers conveying a recording paper S fed from the paper deck feed roller 242 in the direction of the above-mentioned option feed

rollers 233.

Reference 243 denotes feed relay conveying rollers for relaying and conveying recording papers fed from other feed system option units (capable of feeding  
5 recording papers of different sizes or the same size) a plurality of which can be detachably connected to the lower portion of the paper deck option. After all, the paper deck option units 281 can be used in layers, and still another paper deck option unit 281 can be used by  
10 being added to the lower portion of the paper deck option unit 281 of Fig. 2.

Also, 241s denotes a recording paper sensor detecting a housing quantity stack quantity of recording papers S placed on the paper deck 241.  
15 Besides, the paper deck option unit 281 is controlled by a paper deck controller 282.

A paper output option unit 285 is called finisher option unit or the like, and, as three paper output places, 251 has a first delivery bin, 252 has a second  
20 delivery bin, and 253 has a third delivery bin. Recorded recording papers S are assorted and stacked on these delivery bins.

Reference 260 denotes a bin up/down motor for selecting a delivery bin to be used for paper output by  
25 moving the bins up and down. It moves the above delivery bins 251 to 253 up and down to assort recording papers S into each bin.

Reference 261 denotes a paper output stack quantity detection sensor 261 detecting a stack quantity of recording papers output to the first delivery bin 251 to third delivery bin 253 moved up and  
5 down by the bin up/down motor 260.

Reference 254 denotes a flapper performing the conveyance switchover so as to perform the face switchover of a recording paper S distributed by the flapper 211 of the main body of the printer 150 and  
10 sent to the finisher option unit 285, on the basis of instructions of a video controller (not shown), and determining the paper facing upon output.

When face-up is designated from the video controller, a recording paper S distributed to the  
15 flapper 254 is sent as it is to a paper output place by rollers 255. Also, when face-down is designated, a recording paper S distributed to the flapper 254 is once conveyed by rollers 256 and 257 till the rear edge of the recording paper S gets beyond the rollers 256,  
20 and next, the rollers 257 rotates reversely and the recording paper S is sent from its rear edge onto rollers 258 and sent to a paper output place. After all, when face-down is designated, the recording paper S is output with its printed surface facing down.

25 Also, reference 259 denotes a stapler. When stapling is designated, recording papers S are stored on a not-shown staple tray, the recording papers S are

aligned, and the stapler 259 executes stapling and output to any of the first delivery bin 251 to third delivery bin 253.

Also, when shift is designated, like the case that  
5 stapling is designated, recording papers S are stored on the not-shown staple tray, the recording papers S are aligned, and the recording papers S are shifted together with the tray. After all, after the placed region (tray) of the recording papers S to be output is  
10 shifted, they are output to any of the first delivery bin 251 to third delivery bin 253.

Reference 259s denotes a staple needle residual quantity detection sensor for detecting a residual quantity of staple needles housed in the staple 259.  
15 Besides, the finisher option unit 285 is controlled by a finisher controller 286.

Also, the option controller (not shown), paper deck controller 282 and finisher controller 286 are respectively connected via a connector, and the control  
20 is done by making a serial communication with an option unit interface. These option units and the option controller (not shown) of the main body are connected in series (dizzy chain) to each other via the same connector. Accordingly, the paper deck option unit 281  
25 and finisher option unit 285 can also be connected with replacing the order of connection.

Besides, downstream of the above manual feed

roller 203, cassette feed clutch 231 and paper deck feed roller 242, the above resist roller pair 205, feed rollers 204 and conveying rollers 244 conveying a recording paper S are provided, respectively.

- 5 Downstream of the resist roller pair 205, the image recording section 207 forming a toner image on a recording paper S by a laser beam emitted from the above laser scanner 206 is provided.

- Further, downstream of the image recording section 10 207, the fixer 208 fixing with heat a toner image formed on a recording paper S is provided. Downstream of the fixer 208, the paper output sensor 209 detecting a state of conveyance of the paper output section, conveying rollers 210 conveying a recording paper, and 15 flapper 211 switching over the conveyance directions of a recorded recording paper S are provided.

- Now, hereinafter, operations of this printing system till the above print data is actually produced in the host 100, and transmitted to the printer 150, 20 printing processing is executed based on it, and the printing processing is completed will be described.

At first, an example of print data produced by the application 101 and printer driver 102 of the host 100 will be described using Fig. 3.

- 25 Fig. 3 shows an example of a data list showing the structure of print data in JL (job language).

This JL is data produced from the printer driver

102 of the host computer 100 together with PDL data and transmitted to the printer 150, and has the structure in text format as shown in Fig. 3.

<ESC> in Fig. 3 indicates escape characters.

- 5 Besides, in the drawing, a paragraph is inserted to indicate mnemonic, for convenience. However, a paragraph is not necessary in accordance with a specification of language.

- 10 The line of (1) is called UEL (Universal Exit Language). In this case, it indicates that the PDL translator 153 having operated till then is ended, the control is transferred to the JL parser 152, and interpreting processing of a JL command is started.

- 15 The line of (2) is a JL command indicating a job start. It indicates that a job by the name of "jmori 1997\_12\_15\_11\_45\_37" starts from here. This job name can be made in a predetermined format but is constructed here from the name of a user on the host (or the host itself) and a numerical sequence made from  
20 a date. Data after this till a job end command (EOJ: the below (7)) is data of one job.

- The line of (3) is a JL command designating a paper output place (mnemonic: OUTPUT-PLACE) of a paper printed by this print data. In this embodiment, as the  
25 paper output place, any of;

(a) paper output tray: TRAY (213 in Fig. 2)

(b) first delivery bin: BIN 1 (251 in the same)



- (c) second delivery bin: BIN 2 (252 in the same)
- (d) third delivery bin: BIN 3 (253 in the same)
- (e) auto (case that any of (a) to (d) can be):

AUTO

5 can be selected. In case of the example of this Fig.  
3, it is designated to output to the first delivery bin  
(BIN 1) as the paper output place.

66220742628600  
The line of (4) is to instruct that processing is  
transferred to the PDL translator 153 by the name of  
10 "LIPS" hereinafter, and processing of interpreting PDL  
data and converting into image data are executed.

On the line of (5), a plurality of lines of PDL in  
LIPS format is actually described. In this drawing,  
the detail is omitted for simplicity. In practice, a  
15 description in PDL language for producing a bit map of  
each page printed by this job is encapsulated and  
transferred to the position shown by ...<PDL data>...  
in the drawing.

The line of (6) indicates that processing of the  
20 PDL translator 153 is ended and processing is  
transferred to the JL parser 152 again.

The line of (7) is a JL command indicating a job  
end. It indicates that the job by the name of "jmore  
1997\_12\_15\_11\_45\_37" having started from the job start  
25 command (JOB) of the above (1) ends here.

The above is the data format of print data, i.e.,  
print jobs produced by the application 101 and printer

Next, the flow of a print job using the above JL will be described in order.

10           The printer driver 102 converts the image data  
into PDL data of the printer 150 and adds necessary JL  
commands or the like before and behind the converted  
PDL data to make data as shown in Fig. 3, and stores it  
in the output buffer 105.

If it is the timing that print data can be transmitted to the printer 150 (in case that a control such as spooling is done, the data can not always be transmitted at once), the I/F driver 103 transmits the print data stored in the output buffer 105 to the printer 150.

25           When print data is transmitted from the I/F driver  
103 of the host 100 in this manner, the I/F driver 151  
of the printer 150 receives the transmitted print data

In response to this, the JL parser 152 analyzes the print data stored in the input buffer 157 to interpret the portion of JL command. In this case, the JL parser 152 interprets each line of (1) to (4) in Fig. 3.

In the example of Fig. 6, "jmore\_1997\_12\_15\_11\_45 37" is set as the job name and BIN 1 is set as the paper output place. Besides, information of these is shown as text information in Fig. 6, but the format of current job information 160 is optional and it is needless to say that it can be in a binary format.

And, when the JL parser 152 has completed the interpretation of portion of the JL command, it transfers the control to the PDL translator 153. By this, the PDL translator 153 interprets the PDL data of the print data stored in the input buffer 157, converts the image represented by the PDL data into image data (bit map), and stores it in the page buffer 158. The image data stored in the page buffer 158 is delivered to the printer engine 155 via the engine controller 154.

Further, it is obtained from the current job information 160 which paper output place is designated by this print job, and it is also notified to the printer engine 155. In this case, since BIN 1 is set  
5 at the paper output place of the current job information 160, it is notified that it is to output to BIN 1, that is, the first delivery bin.

Thereupon, the printer engine 155 receives the image data and performs printing on a medium such as a  
10 paper by a known printing technique, and outputs the medium to the designated paper output place. In case of Fig. 3, it is output to the first delivery bin.

Further, when the printer engine 155 completes the output of all pages of the present job, it transfers  
15 the contents of the current job information 160 to the job information table 159. Figs. 7 and 8 show an example of the construction of the job information table 159. For example, when the state of the job information table 159 before this transfer processing  
20 is as shown in Fig. 7, Fig. 8 shows the state after the transfer processing.

Besides, in Figs. 7 and 8, the same information as the job current information 160 is stored in the job information table 159, but the job information table  
25 159 can be used storing any other information if it is on a job.

By the above, a printed result that a user desired

can be obtained, and the printed result is output to the paper output place that the user designated. Besides, information on the bin to which the job that printing and outputting have been completed was output is stored in the job information table 159.

Hereinbefore, the operations of this printing system till a print job described by print data (JL + PDL) is actually produced in the host 100, and transmitted to the printer 150, printing processing is performed based on it, and printing processing is completed have been described.

In the present invention, since information on the bin to which the job that printing and outputting have been completed was output is stored in the job information table 159, the user can be notified about the paper output destination using that information.

Hereinafter, operations of this printing system when a user issues a request for knowing where a specific job has been output will be described.

At first, when a user likes to know which paper output place of which printer this job has been output to, he or she issues a request for inquiry about paper output place to the utility 104 via a user interface (such as GUI, the construction being optional) of the application 101. For issuing the request for inquiry about this paper output place, the application 101 can be provided with a suitable user interface.

When a request for inquiry about paper output place is issued from the application 101, the utility 104 in the host 100 produces control data (JL inquiry data) as described below, and the above JL inquiry data is transmitted from the host 100 to the printer 150. Fig. 4 shows an example of this JL inquiry data.

Fig. 4 shows a data list showing the structure of the above JL inquiry data. The data of Fig. 4 is data produced from the utility 104 and has the structure in text format as shown in the drawing. <ESC> in the drawing indicates escape characters.

The line of (1) in Fig. 4 shows UEL (Universal Exit Language) like that shown in Fig. 3. It indicates that the PDL translator 153 having operated till then is ended, the control is transferred to the JL parser 152, and interpreting processing of a JL command is started.

INFO on the line of (2) is a JL command making inquiries to the printer 150. In this case, it indicates the inquiry of what is the paper output place (OUTPUT-PLACE).

The line of (3) is continued from the line of (2), and indicates which job the contents of the inquiry of (2) concerns. That is, this (2) and (3) inquire for the paper output place of the job by the job name of "jmmori\_1997\_12\_15\_11\_45\_37".

Hereinbefore, in Fig. 4, an example of the

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construction of control data (called JL inquiry data) transmitted from the host 100 to the printer 150 when a user likes to know where a specific job has been output, is shown.

5           And, when JL inquiry data as Fig. 4 is transmitted from the host 100, in response to this, an answer is transmitted from the printer 150 to the host 100. This answer is performed by JL data as shown in Fig. 5. The data of Fig. 5 is hereinafter called JL answer data.

10           The data of Fig. 5 is data produced from the JL parser 152, and has the structure in text format as Fig. 5.

          ANSWER on the line of (1) is a JL command indicating an answer from the printer 150 to the host 15   100 in response to INFO on (2) of Fig. 4. In this case, it indicates the answer that the paper output place (OUTPUT-PLACE) is BIN 1.

          The line of (2) is continued from the line of (1), and indicates which job the contents of the answer of 20   (1) concerns. That is, this (1) and (2) answer that the paper output place of the job by the job name of "jmori\_1997\_12\_15\_11\_45\_37" is BIN 1, that is, the first delivery bin.

          Hereinbefore, an example of the construction of 25   control data (JL answer data) answering from the printer 150 to the host 100 in response to JL inquiry data is shown in Fig. 5.

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The flow of inquiry to answer concerning paper output place using the above JL inquiry data and JL answer data is shown below.

At first, when a user likes to know which is the paper output place of this job and issues a request for inquiry about paper output place to the utility 104 via the application 101, JL inquiry data as shown in Fig. 4 produced by the utility 104 in the host 100 is stored in the output buffer 105.

In response to this, the I/F driver 103 transmits the JL inquiry data stored in the output buffer 105 to the printer 150.

When JL inquiry data is transmitted from the I/F driver 103 of the host 100 in this manner, the I/F driver 151 of the printer 150 receives the transmitted JL inquiry data and stored it in the input buffer 157.

Thereupon, the JL parser 152 analyzes the JL inquiry data stored in the input buffer 157 to interpret the portion of the JL command. In this case, the JL parser 152 interprets all of (1) to (3) in Fig. 4 and recognizes that it is inquired about the paper output place of the job by the job name of "jmori\_1997\_12\_15\_11\_45\_37".

On the basis of this recognition, the JL parser 152 accesses the job information table 159. And, it retrieves the job by the job name of designated "jmori\_1997\_12\_15\_11\_45\_37" on the job information table 159

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and obtains the paper output place corresponding to the job.

For example, if the present job information table 159 is as Fig. 8 described before, the JL parser 152  
5 obtains that the paper output place is BIN 1. When the JL parser 152 obtains where is the paper output place in this manner, it produces JL answer data as shown in Fig. 5 and stores it in the output buffer 156. By this, the I/F driver 151 transmits the above JL answer  
10 data stored in the output buffer 156 to the host 100.

When the above JL answer data is transmitted from the I/F driver 151 of the printer 150 in this manner, the I/F driver 103 of the host 100 receives the transmitted JL answer data and stores it in the input  
15 buffer 106.

Thereupon, the utility 104 of the host 100 interprets the JL answer data stored in the input buffer 106. In this case, it interprets (1) and (2) in Fig. 5 and recognizes that it has obtained the answer  
20 that the paper output place of the job by the job name of "jmori\_1997\_12\_15\_11\_45\_37" is BIN 1, that is, the first delivery bin.

And, the utility 104 displays a message window, e.g., as shown in Fig. 10 on the display (not shown) of  
25 the host 100 or the like to show the answer to the user's inquiry.

Fig. 10 shows an example of a picture 100a that

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As described above, the printer engine 155 is provided with a paper output stack quantity detection sensor detecting whether or not papers are stacked on

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that have already been output to the paper output place, job information corresponding to the paper output place from which the papers are removed is eliminated from the job information table 159 and the  
5 job information table 159 is renewed.

As described above, according to this embodiment, as for each print job, during the term since papers have been printed till the papers are removed, it is stored in the job information table of the printer  
10 which paper output place each print job has been output to. After then, when an inquiry is received from the host, the paper output place of the designated job is answered with reference to the above job information table. Further, the host informs the user of the paper  
15 output place of the above job obtained from the printer, thereby the user can know which paper output place the job that he or she output has been output to.

Also, in this embodiment, when papers are removed, information on the job that have been output to the  
20 paper output place from which the papers have been removed is eliminated from the job information table. Accordingly, the job information table can be constructed by the required minimum memory.

Besides, in this embodiment, an example in which  
25 the host and printer are connected in one-to-one by the communication medium 190 is shown. However, the connection form is optional in accordance with the

construction of the communication medium 190. For example, it is needless to say that a similar construction can be implemented even if the printer 150 can be connected from a plurality of hosts via a network.

Also, between the host and printer, print data and control data can be transmitted to and received from separate channels, respectively, by using a plurality of channels in the communication medium. By such a construction, realtime performance is improved and use convenience becomes better.

[Second Embodiment]

In the first embodiment, the example in which the printer holds information which paper output place each job has been output to, in the job information table, and the host operates so as to make inquiries to the printer when the information is necessary, is shown. However, information which paper output place the output of a job has been output to, can also be held on the host side.

Hereinafter, an embodiment in which information on paper output places of jobs is managed in the host will be described. Besides, hereinafter, as for parts overlapping with the first embodiment, the detailed description will be omitted.

Fig. 11 is a block diagram showing the construction of a printing system in the second

embodiment of the present invention. The same parts as those of Fig. 1 are denoted by the same references. The printing system of this embodiment has the construction in which a host 100 and a printer 150 are  
5 connected via a predetermined communication medium 190, similarly to Fig. 1.

Similarly to Fig. 1, the host 100 comprises an application 101, a printer driver 102, an I/F  
10 (interface) driver 103, a utility 104, an output buffer 105, and an input buffer 106. Also, the host 100 comprises a not-shown keyboard, a not-shown mouse, a not-shown display, etc.

Further, in case of this embodiment, in the host 100, a job information table 107 is provided.

15 The application 101 provides a graphic user interface to a user, and produces image data suitable for the user's purpose, similarly to the first embodiment.

The printer driver 102 converts image data  
20 produced by the application 101 into data in page description language (hereinafter PDL) printable in the printer 150.

The I/F driver 103 makes communication in two ways with the printer 150 on print data and control data.  
25 And, it transmits data stored in the output buffer 105 to the printer 150. Further, it receives data transmitted from the printer 150 and stores it in the

input buffer 106.

The utility 104 provides a graphic user interface to a user. Via the graphic user interface, it gives information obtained from the printer 150 to the user, or changes the setting of the environment of the printer 150 in accordance with the user's demand.

The output buffer 105 is for temporarily storing print data produced by the printer driver 102, and control data such as an inquiry in job language produced by the utility 104. The input buffer 106 temporarily stores data received by the I/F driver 103 from the printer 150.

The job information table 107 of this embodiment is similar to the job information table 159 provided in the printer 150 in the above first embodiment, in which a plurality of pieces of information on the jobs that the printer 150 had already printed is stored.

A controller 1000 and a memory 1001 are the same as Fig. 1, so the detailed description is omitted here.

On the other hand, the printer 150 comprises an I/F driver 151, a JL parser 152, a PDL translator 153, an engine controller 154, a printer engine 155, an output buffer 156, an input buffer 157, a page buffer 158, and current job information 160. The I/F driver 151 makes communication with the host 100 on print data and control data. That is, it receives print data and control data transmitted from the host 100, and

5           The PDL translator 153 interprets the portion of  
PDL data among print data and converts it into image  
data. The image data (bit map) converted here is  
stored in the page buffer 158. The input buffer 157  
temporarily stores all data received by the I/F driver  
10 151 and functions as a buffer for the succeeding  
processing.

The engine controller 154 delivers image data  
15 stored in the page buffer 158 to the printer engine 155  
with viewing the timing. Further, it designates a  
paper output place to the printer engine 155 with  
reference to current job information 160.

In current job information 160 of the printer, job



information on the job that the printer engine 155 is printing is temporarily stored.

Packaging of a controller 1500 and a memory 1501 is the same as Fig. 1, so the detailed description is omitted here.

As above, the construction of the printing system of the second embodiment of the present invention has been described. But, in short, a great difference from the first embodiment is the point that the job information table 107 is provided not on the printer 150 side but on the host device side.

Next, operations of this printing system till the above print data is actually produced in the host 100, and transmitted to the printer 150, printing processing is executed based on it, and the printing processing is completed will be described.

Print data produced by the application 101 and printer driver 102 of the host 100 can be the same as that shown in Fig. 3 in the above first embodiment, so the description is omitted here.

When the JL data shown in Fig. 3 is received and the printer 150 completes printing the corresponding job, JL end-of-job notice data as shown in Fig. 12 is produced by the JL parser 152 of the printer 150.

Fig. 12 shows an example of JL end-of-job notice data that the JL parser 152 produces when a print job ends. As shown in the drawing, this JL end-of-job

notice data has the structure in text format. <ESC> in the drawing indicates escape characters.

In Fig. 12, JOB-FINISHED on the line of (1) is a JL command indicating a notice of job end from the printer 150 to the host 100. In case of Fig. 12, it notifies that the job has ended and the paper output destination is that the paper output place (OUTPUT-PLACE) is BIN 1.

The line of (2) is continued from the line of (1), and indicates which job the contents of the answer of (1) concerns. That is, by this (1) and (2), it is notified that printing of the job by the job name of "jmmori\_1997\_12\_15\_11\_45\_37" whose paper output place is BIN 1, that is, the first delivery bin is completed.

Such JL end-of-job notice data as above is produced by the JL parser 152 of the printer 150 when the printer 150 completed printing of a job, and transmitted to the host 100.

Hereinafter, the flow of processing of the whole print job in the construction of Fig. 11 will be described.

First, processing since a user issues a request for printing via a user interface of the application 101 of the host 100 and printing is performed on a medium such as a paper by the printer engine 155 till the notified paper output place medium is output is quiet the same as that shown in the above first

embodiment, so the detailed description is omitted here.

Upon end of printing, when the printer engine 155 completes the output of all pages of the present job, it notifies the JL parser 152 of the printing-completed job name and paper output place with reference to current job information 160.

By this, the JL parser 152 produces the JL end-of-job notice data shown in Fig. 12 and stores it in the output buffer 156.

In response to this, the I/F driver 151 transmits the above JL end-of-job notice data stored in the output buffer 156 to the host 100.

When the above JL end-of-job notice data is transmitted from the I/F driver 151 of the printer 150 in this manner, the I/F driver 103 of the host 100 receives the transmitted JL end-of-job notice data and stores it in the input buffer 106.

By this, the host utility 104 interprets the JL end-of-job notice data stored in the input buffer 106. In this case, it interprets (1) and (2) of the JL end-of-job notice data of Fig. 12, and recognizes that it obtains the notice that the printing-completed job is one by the job name of "jmori\_1997\_12\_15\_11\_45\_37" and the paper output place of the output destination is BIN 1, that is, the first delivery bin.

On the basis of this, the utility 104 sets

information of the printing-completed job in the job information table 107. For example, when the job information table 107 was Fig. 7 before this processing, it becomes as Fig. 8 after processing.

5     That is, the job information table 107 on the host side  
can also be renewed by the same manner as the first  
embodiment.

As described above, in addition to that a print result that the user desired can be obtained, further, 10 information of the bin to which the job in which printing and outputting have been completed has been output is stored in the job information table 107 of the host 100.

As above, the operations till the above print data  
15 is actually produced in the host 100, and transmitted  
to the printer 150, printing processing is executed  
based on it, the printing processing is completed,  
information of the printing-completed job is  
transmitted to the host 100, and information of the  
20 above job is registered in the job information table  
107 of the host 100 on the basis of it have been  
described.

Next, operations when a user of the host 100  
issues an inquiry to know where a specific job has been  
25 output will be described.

Here, when the user likes to know where the paper output place of this job is, he or she issues a request

for an inquiry about the paper output place via the application 101 to the utility 104 via a proper user interface. At this time, for example, the user designates his or her object job by inputting such a  
5 job name as "jmori\_1997\_12\_15\_11\_45\_37" from a keyboard.

In response to this, the utility 104 recognizes with reference to the job information table 107 that the paper output place of the job by the name of "jmori  
10 1997\_12\_15\_11\_45\_37" is BIN 1, that is, the first delivery bin.

And, the utility 104 displays, e.g., such a message window as shown in Fig. 10 on a display (not shown), and thereby displays an answer to the user's  
15 inquiry.

The user interface of this inquiry can be optionally constructed. For example, when information of the user name and date is included as the job name as described above, the system in which the user name and job name are made to be input as retrieval keys and the paper output place of the aimed job is displayed is also thinkable. Also, when the printer is present on a plurality of networks, as the management of print jobs, as a matter of course, the IP address or the like is  
20 stored in the job information table 107. But, it can be also constructed such that retrieval can be performed from the address or the like of this printer.

The retrieval key is not only made to be input from the user but also displayed in menu format and makes the user select by a device such as a mouse.

As described above, the operations that this  
5 printing system performs when the user issues a request that likes to know where the specific job has been output have been described.

Next, operations of this printing system when a user removes papers having been already output to a  
10 paper output place will be described. In this embodiment, because the job information table 107 is managed on the host side, in case that papers are removed from the paper output place, that effect is notified to the host side.

15 JL end-of-job notice data produced by the JL parser 152 when the printer 150 completes printing of the job and transmitted to the host 100 can be the same as Fig. 12.

On the other hand, in the printer engine 155 of  
20 Fig. 11, the paper output stack quantity detection sensor detecting whether or not papers are stacked on each paper output place is provided. This construction is quiet the same of Fig. 2 of the first embodiment, and when the user removes papers from each paper output  
25 place, it is notified to the engine controller 154 that the papers are removed.

For example, when papers of the first delivery bin

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5           And, the JL parser 152 produces such JL paper  
removal notice data as exemplified below, and stores it  
in the input buffer 156 to output to the host.

15 In Fig. 13, PAPER-REMOVED on the line of (1) is a  
JL command indicating the notice that papers have been  
removed from the paper output place from the printer  
150 to the host 100. In this case, it indicates that  
papers have been removed from the paper output place  
20 that the paper output place (OUTPUT-PLACE) is BIN 1.

25           Here, when the paper output place from which  
papers have been removed is notified from the above  
engine controller 154, the JL parser 152 produces JL

paper removal notice data shown in Fig. 13, and stores it in the output buffer 156.

Thereupon, the I/F driver 151 transmits the above JL paper removal notice data stored in the output  
5 buffer 156 to the host 100.

When the JL paper removal notice data as shown in Fig. 13 is transmitted from the I/F driver 151 of the printer 150 in this manner, the I/F driver 103 of the host 100 receives the corresponding JL paper removal  
10 notice data transmitted, and stores it in the input buffer 106.

In response to this, the utility 104 interprets the JL paper removal notice data stored in the input buffer 106.

15 In this case, it interprets (1) in Fig. 13 and recognizes that it obtains the notice that papers stacked on the paper output place is BIN 1, that is, the first delivery bin have been removed. On the basis of this, the utility 104 accesses the job information  
20 table 107, and eliminates all information of jobs that the paper output place is BIN 1.

If the job information table 107 was Fig. 8, the notice that papers have been removed from the first delivery bin (BIN 1) is performed, and when the utility  
25 104 eliminates all that the paper output place is BIN 1 from the job information table 107, the job information table 107 becomes as Fig. 9.



As described above, when the user removes papers having been already output to the paper output place, job information having the paper output place as the output destination is eliminated from the job

5 information table 107 of the host 100.

As described above, in this embodiment, as for each print job, by operating such that, during the term since papers have been printed till the papers are removed, it is stored in the job information table of  
10 the host which paper output place each print job has been output to, and when an inquiry is received from the user, paper output place information of the designated job is given with reference to the above job information table, the user can know which paper output  
15 place the job that he or she output has been output to.

Also, when papers are removed, the printer notifies the host of the paper output place from which the papers have been removed, and the host receives the notice and operates so as to eliminate information on  
20 the job output to the removed paper output place from the job information table. Accordingly, the job information table can be constructed by the required minimum memory.

Also in this embodiment, the connection form is  
25 optional in accordance with the construction of the communication medium 190. For example, it is needless to say that a similar construction can be implemented

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even if the printer 150 can be connected from a plurality of hosts via a network.

Also, in this embodiment, print data and control data can be transmitted to and received from separate channels, respectively, by using a plurality of channels in the communication medium. By such a construction, realtime performance is improved and use convenience becomes better.

[Third Embodiment]

In the first and second embodiments, examples in which the host and printer are connected in one-to-one are shown. However, as mentioned before, these host and printer can be connected by a network. In this embodiment, such a construction will be concretely shown. Besides, hereinafter, as for parts overlapping with the first and second embodiments, the detailed description will be omitted.

Fig. 14 is a block diagram showing the construction of a printing system in the third embodiment of the present invention. The same parts as those of Fig. 1 are denoted by the same references. The printing system of the present invention has the construction in which a host 100 and a printer 150 are connected via a communication medium 190, similarly to Fig. 1.

In Fig. 14, the communication medium 190 is network media such as Ethernet or FDDI. The I/F driver

103 is constructed along the specification of the corresponding network media in order to be able to perform input/output with such network media, and makes communication in two ways with the printer 150 via the communication medium 190 on print data and control data. At that time, it transmits data stored in the output buffer 105 to the printer 150. Further, it receives data transmitted from the printer 150, and stores it in the input buffer 106.

The other construction of the host 100 is substantially the same as Fig. 1. The host 100 comprises an application 101, a printer driver 102, an I/F (interface) driver 103, a utility 104, an output buffer 105, an input buffer 106, and a printer list 108. Of course, the host 100 comprises also a not-shown keyboard, a not-shown mouse, a not-shown display, etc. for operations of the application 101, utility 104, etc.

The functions of the construction members of the host 100 are substantially the same as Fig. 1. Hereinafter, these construction members will be briefly shown.

First, the application 101 provides a graphic user interface to a user, and produces image data suitable for the user's purpose.

The printer driver 102 converts image data produced by the application 101 into data in page

description language (hereinafter PDL) printable in the printer 150.

The utility 104 provides a graphic user interface to a user. Via the graphic user interface, it gives  
5 information obtained from the printer 150 to the user, or changes the setting of the environment of the printer 150 in accordance with the user's demand.

The output buffer 105 is for temporarily storing print data produced by the printer driver 102, and  
10 control data such as an inquiry in job language (the above-described JL) produced by the utility 104.

The input buffer 106 is for temporarily storing data received by the I/F driver 103 from the printer 150.

15 A controller 1000 and a memory 1001 are the same as Fig. 1, so the detailed description is omitted here.

On the other hand, the printer 150 comprises an I/F driver 151 constructed so as to be capable of communicating with the communication medium 190  
20 consisting of such network media as described above, a JL parser 152, a PDL translator 153, an engine controller 154, a printer engine 155, an output buffer 156, an input buffer 157, a page buffer 158, a job information table 159, and current job information 160.

25 Although the functions of these construction members of the printer 150 are equivalent to those of the above-described Fig. 1, they will be briefly shown

hereinafter.

First, the I/F driver 151 is constructed along the specification of the communication medium 190 consisting of such network media as described above, and makes communication with the host 100 on print data and control data. That is, it receives print data and control data transmitted from the host 100, and transmits data stored in the output buffer 156 to the host 100.

The JL parser 152 interprets received data and executes processing in relation to the command of JL.

The PDL translator 153 interprets the portion of PDL data among print data and converts it into image data. The image data converted here is stored in the page buffer 158.

The input buffer 157 temporarily stores all data received by the I/F driver 151 and functions as a buffer for the succeeding processing.

The output buffer 156 is for temporarily storing data produced by the JL parser 152.

The engine controller 154 delivers image data stored in the page buffer 158 to the printer engine 155 with monitoring the operation timing of the printer engine 155. Also, it is in charge of paper output control designating a paper output place to the printer engine 155 with reference to current job information 160.

The printer engine 155 is for receiving image data from the engine controller 154, and performing printing on a medium such as a paper by a known printing method, whose construction can be the same as Fig. 2.

5 Accordingly, the detailed description of the construction of the printer engine 155 is omitted. Besides, the printer engine 155 outputs papers to the paper output place designated from the engine controller 154 upon printer output.

10 In current job information, job information on the job that the printer engine 155 is printing is temporarily stored.

15 In the job information table 159, a plurality of pieces of information on the jobs that the printer 150 had already printed is stored.

Packaging of a controller 1500 and a memory 1501 is the same as Fig. 1, so the detailed description is omitted here.

20 The printing system of this embodiment is constructed as described above. An outline of the operations of this printing system till the above print data is actually produced in the host 100, and transmitted to the printer 150, printing processing is executed based on it, and the printing processing is  
25 completed is the same as the first embodiment.

The host 100 and the printer 150 of Fig. 14 are not connected in one-to-one. For example, as shown in

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5 1601 to 1603 are constructed similarly to the printer  
150 and constructed such that they can receive a job  
via the network and print it (however, the number of  
paper output places or the construction or scale of  
particulars of the printing mechanism can be  
10 different).

In such a construction, a print job can be issued from the host 100 to the printers 1601 to 1603, and printing can be executed. Particularly in such a construction, as described in the prior art, it is fully possible that a user can not find where his or her output result has been output.

In this embodiment, the user can know where the output of a specific job has been output. Hereinafter, operations of this printing system when a user issues a request for knowing the paper output destination of a specific job will be described with reference to Fig. 14 and the above Fig. 16.

Here, first, when the user likes to know which paper output place of which printing device of which printer a job has been output to, he or she designates the job to the utility 104 via a user graphic interface and issues a request for an inquiry about the printer

and paper output place.

At this time, in the method that the user specifies the aimed job, in case that information of the user name and date is included as the job name as mentioned before in the second embodiment, the user name and the job name are made to be input as retrieval keys to designate the aimed job, or the retrieval is made possible from IP address of the printer that executed the print job, or the like. The retrieval key not only is input from the user, but also can be displayed in menu format and selected by the user with a device such as a mouse.

When the aimed print job is designated in this manner, the utility 104 of the host 100 produces JL inquiry data as shown in Fig. 4 of the first embodiment on the basis of the user's job designation, and transmits it to the printer to makes inquiries.

But, at this time, since a plurality of printers is present in the whole of the system, the utility 104 transmits the JL inquiry data as Fig. 4 to all printers on the network in order.

For example, it provides a printer list as shown in Fig. 17 in a memory managed by the application 101 and utility 104 of the host 100, and transmits the JL inquiry data as Fig. 4 with reference to this printer list to the printers on the network in order, and makes inquiries. Besides, in the example of printer list of



Fig. 17, as for all printers present on the network, the addresses (here IP addresses) and the name character sequences are listed. Such data of the addresses and names of the printers can be previously  
5 registered by a predetermined operation, or automatically made by making communication with the printers presently connected on the network using protocol such as SNMP or SMB.

Now, the printer having received the JL inquiry  
10 data as Fig. 4 from the host 100 retrieves on the job information table, and judges whether or not information of job of the designated job name is present. If present, it produces JL answer data as shown in Fig. 5 of the first embodiment and returns it  
15 to the host that issued the inquiry request. If the job corresponding to the inquiry is not present, it produces JL answer data that the job is not present, and transfers it to the host.

Here, in Fig. 18, an example of JL answer data  
20 that the designated job information is not present is shown.

In Fig. 18, ANSWER on the line of (1) is a JL command indicating an answer from the printer to the host in response to INFO of (2) of Fig. 4. In this  
25 case, answering that the paper output place (OUTPUT-PLACE) is UNKNOWN, that is, unknown (not present) is indicated.

Also, the line of (2) is continued from the line of (1), and indicates which job the contents of the answer of (1) concerns. That is, by this (1) and (2), it is answered that the job by the job name of "jmori 1997\_12\_15\_11\_45\_37" is not present in this printer. In case of receiving such JL answer data, the utility 104 of the host 100 judges that the desired job has not been output to this printer.

And, when the utility 104 receives JL answer data as Fig. 18, it interprets this content and can recognize which output place of which printer the job has been output to.

Besides, if the corresponding job is present in the printer having received the inquiry, this printer transmits JL answer data in the format as shown in Fig. 5.

Accordingly, here, in case of requesting from a user the printer and paper output place to which the job called "jmori\_1997\_12\_15\_11\_45\_37" has been output, when JL inquiry data is transmitted to the printer 150. If the corresponding job is present, JL answer data as shown in Fig. 5 is transmitted from the printer 150. The utility 104 of the host 100 can indicate an answer to the user's inquiry by displaying on a display (not shown) of the host 100 on the basis of this, or the like.

In this display processing, for example, it is

thinkable to display such a message window as shown in  
Fig. 15 with reference to the printer list of Fig. 17.  
Fig. 15 shows an example of a dialogue picture 100a by  
substantially the same GUI as Fig. 10 shows an example  
5 of a picture 100a. Here, a window (dialogue) 100e  
indicating with characters the paper output destination  
of the inquired job on the image (or icon) 100b  
symbolically indicating the printer. Of course, in  
this embodiment, since the printer of the paper output  
10 destination is not specific one, the name (LBP930(4F))  
of the printer that executed the print job and the name  
of the bin of the paper output destination that paper  
output has been performed by the corresponding job in  
the printer are displayed together with the job name in  
15 the dialogue 100e of Fig. 15.

The window (dialogue) 100e of Fig. 15 disappears  
by selecting the button 100d of "OK" displayed therein  
by a mouse or the like. Similarly to the above  
description, the above display processing may be  
20 controlled at a lower level than the utility 104.

As above, when a user issues a request for knowing  
where a specific job has been output, JL inquiry data  
is transmitted to each printer on the network. Because  
such an answer as shown in Fig. 5 is returned from the  
25 printer that treated with the corresponding job and  
such an answer as shown in Fig. 18 is returned from the  
printer that did not treat with the corresponding job,

the host can inform the user which paper output place of which printer the aimed job has been output, by displaying this.

As another embodiment, in the second embodiment, 5 if the job information table (Fig. 7) is provided in each printer or the printer in which an item of output data is added is displayed, displaying as shown in Fig. 15 can be performed when a plurality of printers is connected even in case of the second embodiment.

10 Besides, processing of this printing system when a user removes papers having been already output to a paper output place can be executed in quiet the same manner as the first embodiment since the job information table 159 is provided on the printer 150 15 side. In case that a large number of printers are present on a network like this embodiment, the construction that the job information table 159 is provided on the printer 150 side is convenient because job information of a plurality of printers need not be 20 managed on the host side.

As described above, according to this embodiment, as for print jobs, during the term since papers have been printed till the papers are removed, it is stored in the job information table of the printer which paper 25 output place each print job has been output to. When an inquiry is received from the host, the paper output place of the designated job is answered with reference

to the above job information table. Further, the host informs the user of the paper output place of the above job obtained from the printer, thereby letting the user know which paper output place the job that he or she output has been output to.

Also, in this embodiment, when papers output similarly to the first embodiment are removed, information on (all) jobs that performed output to the corresponding paper output place is eliminated from the job information table. Accordingly, the job information table can be constructed by the required minimum memory.

Also in this embodiment, between the host and printer, print data and control data can be transmitted to and received from separate channels, respectively, by using a plurality of channels in the communication medium. In this case, realtime performance is improved and use convenience becomes better.

Also, as the network as the communication medium 190, other than Ethernet and FDDI exemplified above, it is needless to say that a similar construction can be implemented in the construction in which a plurality of printers is connected to one host, e.g., using a bus such as SCSI, USB or IEEE 1394, or the like.

Also, in this embodiment, when a user makes an inquiry about the output destination of a job, the system operates to make inquiries to all printers on

the network. However, it is also possible that a job output printer information region is provided on the host to store in it which printer a print data has been transmitted to, and when a user inquiries about the output destination of a job, after the printer is specified with reference to the job output printer region, to make an inquiry to the printer.

As above, three embodiments have been shown, but each optional part in the above constructions can be used by being adopted and rejected and combined within the scope not deviating the scope of the present invention. Roughly classifying, there are the construction in which job information is managed in the printer as the first and third embodiments, and the construction in which job information is managed in the host device as the second embodiment. But, in practice, the detail of processing that is performed in the printer or host device in the above embodiments can be performed in any device. For example, the construction in which job information is stored in a memory of the printer but eliminating the job information is executed by the control by main conduct of the host device that received a notice of removal of papers from the paper output place from the printer, or the like is thinkable.

Also, the printing control program in each embodiment is respectively stored in the memory 1001 or

1501 of each device as the program of the printer or  
host device. But the present invention is not limited  
to the system in which the program of each device is  
fixedly stored in this manner. For example, the  
5 control program of the printer is not necessarily  
stored in the memory of the printer. It can also be  
downloaded to the printer from the host on the basis of  
a predetermined protocol and executed. Also, if the  
programs of the host and printer in relation to the  
10 present invention are described in a language  
independent from the hardware, the control of the  
present invention can be implemented even in the  
construction in which the program executed in the host  
to a point of time is transferred to the printer to  
15 execute the remaining part.

As described above, in a printing system in which  
a host device and a printer are connected via a  
communication medium and a print job produced in said  
host device is transferred to said printer to execute  
20 printing, a method for controlling the system, and a  
computer readable recording medium storing a control  
program for the system, the construction is employed  
that paper output place information on the paper output  
place used in said print job is registered in memory  
25 means when the print job is completed, paper output  
place information on a designated print job is  
retrieved from said memory means in accordance with a

request from said host device, and the paper output place information on the designated print job obtained by said retrieval is informed to a user of said host device. Accordingly, there is the superior effect that

5 the user of the host device can clearly know which paper output place of which printer the printed result that he or she is to output (or has output) is to be output (has been output) to.

Also, in the present invention, since the

10 construction is employed that the paper output place information of the print job having used the corresponding paper output place is eliminated from said memory means when papers are removed from the paper output place of said printer, there is the

15 superior effect that the memory means can be renewed in accordance with the removal of the papers from the paper output place, the memory resources are not wasted wastefully, information on paper output destination of a job is managed suitably, a host device or a user of

20 it can be notified in case of need, the information on paper output destination on a job or information on the whole of jobs can be suitably eliminated when it becomes useless, and thereby a realistic job management can be performed.

25 Also, in the present invention, the construction can be employed that said registration or said retrieval is executed in said printer, or said

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registration or said retrieval is executed in said host device, and there is the superior effect that the management of jobs including paper output place information suitable for the construction of the whole of the system can be implemented.

5

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1. A printing system in which a host device and a printer are connected via a communication medium and a print job produced in said host device is transferred to said printer to execute printing, comprising:

retrieval means for retrieving paper output place  
information on a designated print job from said memory  
means; and

2. A printing system according to claim 1, comprising detection means for detecting papers stacked on said paper output place of said printer, and elimination means for eliminating information on the print job having used the corresponding paper output place from said memory means when said detection means detects that papers have been removed from said paper output place.

3. A printing system according to claim 1,  
wherein said memory means or said retrieval means is  
provided in said printer.

5            5. A method for controlling a printing system in which a host device and a printer are connected via a communication medium and a print job produced in said host device is transferred to said printer to execute printing, comprising steps of:

retrieving paper output place information on a designated print job from said memory means; and  
15 informing of the paper output place information on the designated print job obtained by said retrieval.

25           7. A method for controlling a printing system  
according to claim 5, wherein said registration step or  
said retrieval step is performed in said printer.

8. A method for controlling a printing system according to claim 5, wherein said registration step or said retrieval step is performed in said host device.

5 9. A computer-readable memory medium which stores a control program for a printing system in which a host device and a printer are connected via a communication medium and a print job produced in said host device is transferred to said printer to execute printing, said  
10 program comprising steps of:

registering paper output place information on the paper output place used in said print job in memory means;

15 retrieving paper output place information on a designated print job from said memory means; and

informing of the paper output place information on the designated print job obtained by said retrieval.

20 10. A memory medium according to claim 9, storing an elimination step of eliminating information on the print job having used the corresponding paper output place from said memory means when papers have been removed from the paper output place of said printer.

25 11. A memory medium according to claim 9, provided in said printer as a memory medium which stores the program for said printer to perform said

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registration step or said retrieval step in said  
printer.

12. A memory medium according to claim 9,
- 5 provided in said host device as a memory medium which  
stores the program for said host device to perform said  
registration step or said retrieval step in said host  
device.

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

When a print job described in JL (job language) is transferred from a host device via a communication medium, JL is interpreted by a JL parser, encapsulated

5 PDL (page description language) is interpreted by a PDL translator, and image data to be printed is produced, and printed in a printer engine. When printing is completed, information on the paper output place is stored in a job information table. When an inquiry in

10 JL is made from the host, on the basis of this, the job information table is retrieved, and answer data on the corresponding paper output place is returned to the host device, and informed to a user via display processing on the host device or the like.

15

FIG. 1

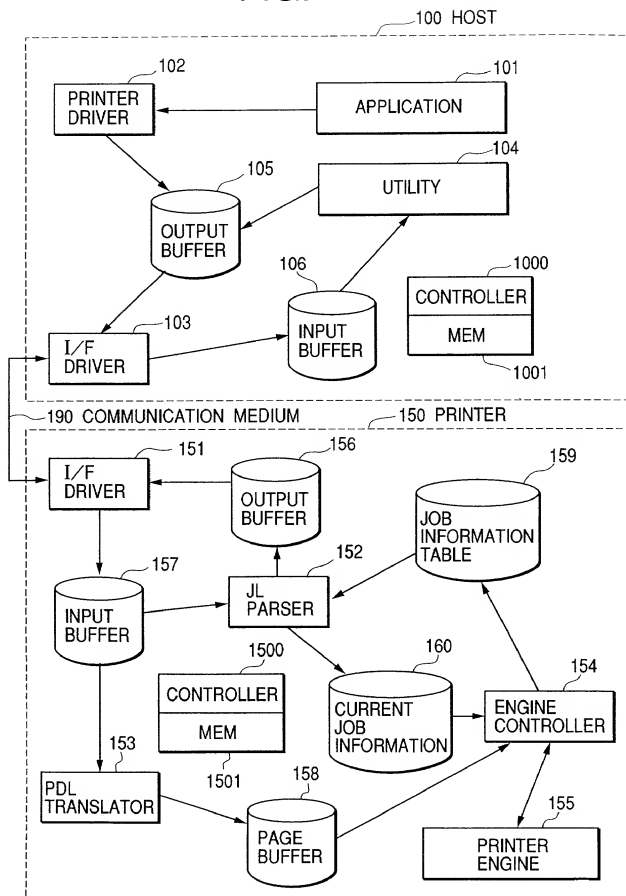
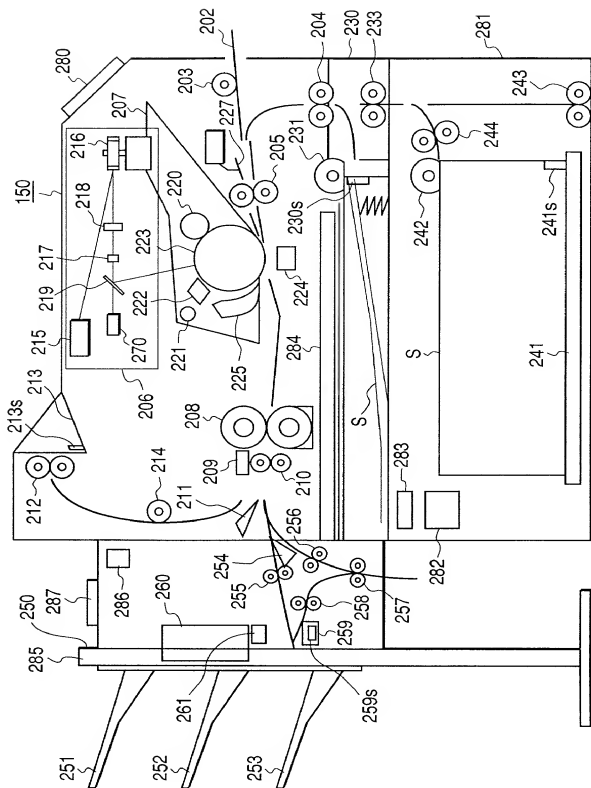


FIG. 2





## PRINT DATA

## JL INQUIRY DATA

## JL ANSWER DATA

```
@PJL ANSWER OUTPUT=PLACE=BIN 1 (1)
JOB NAME="jmori_1997_12_15_11_45_37" (2)
```

CURRENT JOB INFORMATION 160

PAPER  
OUTPUT  
PLACE


JOB INFORMATION TABLE 159

PAPER  
OUTPUT  
PLACE

*FIG. 8*

JOB INFORMATION TABLE 159

JOB NAME	PAPER OUTPUT PLACE
"jmor_i_1997_12_15_07_10_10"	BIN 1
"jmor_i_1997_12_15_07_15_25"	BIN 2
"jmor_i_1997_12_15_07_23_03"	BIN 1
"jmor_i_1997_12_15_07_23_52"	BIN 1
"takashi_1997_12_15_08_00_47"	BIN 3
"kakky_1997_12_15_08_12_20"	BIN 2
"kakky_1997_12_15_08_15_38"	BIN 2
"toitoi_1997_12_15_08_28_51"	BIN 1
"takashi_1997_12_15_10_02_33"	BIN 3
"jmor_i_1997_12_15_11_45_37"	BIN 1
.	.
.	.
.	.

*FIG. 9*JOB INFORMATION TABLE 159


JOB NAME	PAPER OUTPUT PLACE
"jmorl_1997_12_15_07_15_25"	BIN 2
"takashi_1997_12_15_08_00_47"	BIN 3
"kakky_1997_12_15_08_12_20"	BIN 2
"kakky_1997_12_15_08_15_38"	BIN 2
"takashi_1997_12_15_10_02_33"	BIN 3
⋮	⋮

669280-4268860

FIG. 10

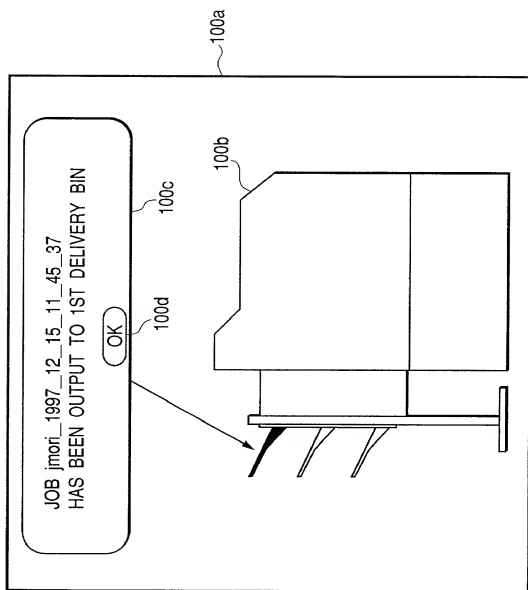
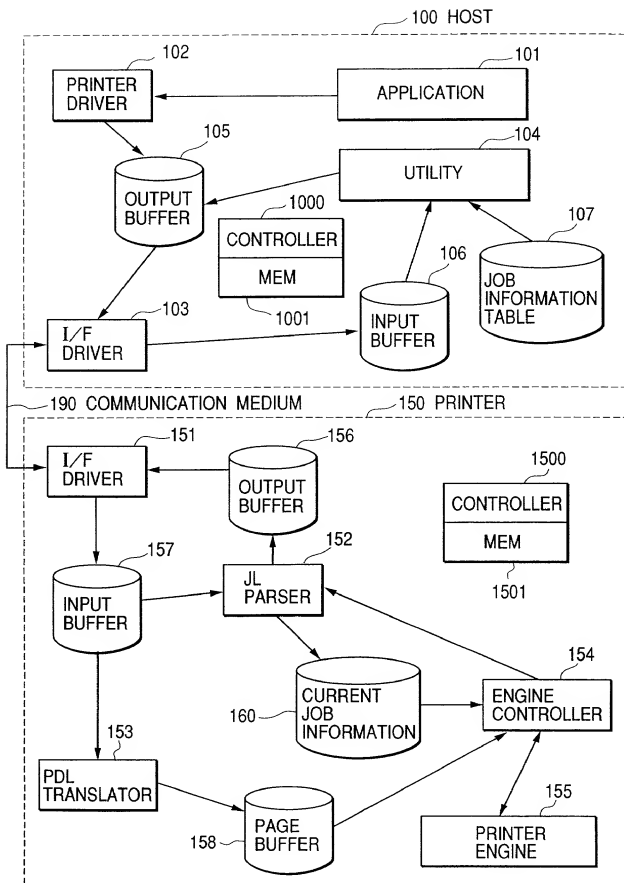


FIG. 11



## *FIG. 12*

JL END-OF-JOB NOTICE DATA

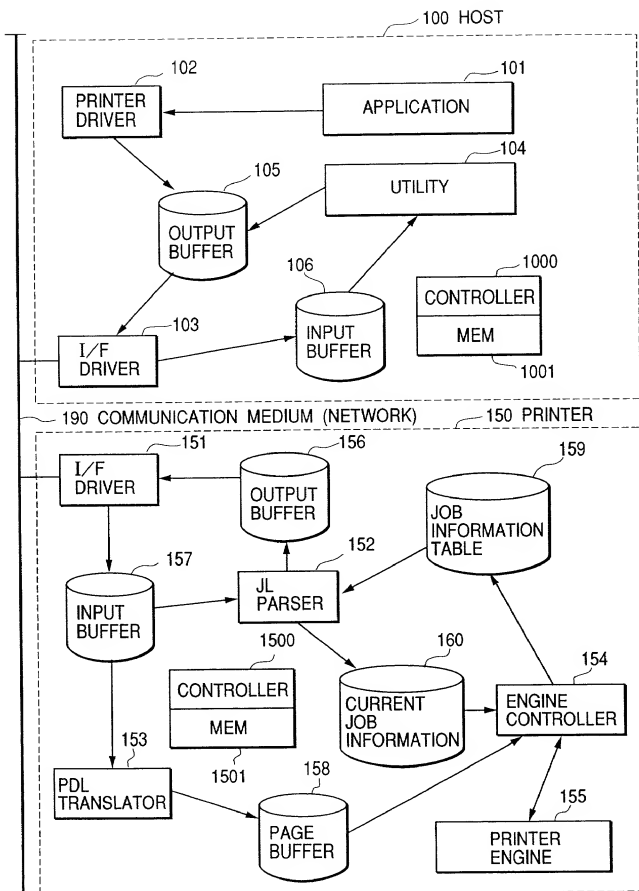
@PJL JOB-FINISHED OUTPUT-PLACE=BIN 1	(1)
JOB NAME="jmor1_1997_12_15_11_45_37"	(2)

## *FIG. 13*

JL PAPER REMOVAL NOTICE DATA

@PJL PAPER-REMOVED OUTPUT-PLACE=BIN 1	(1)
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FIG. 14





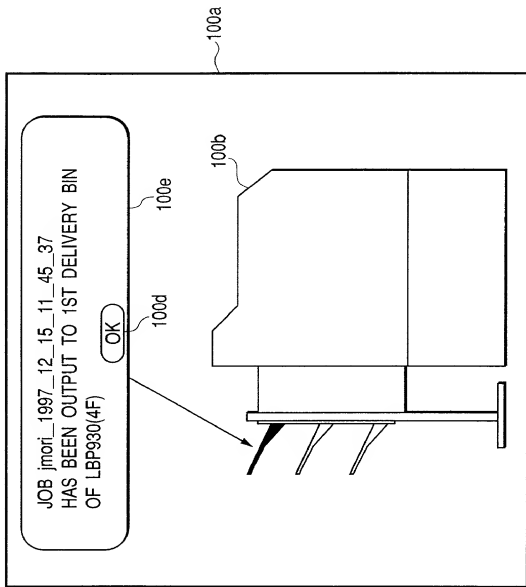
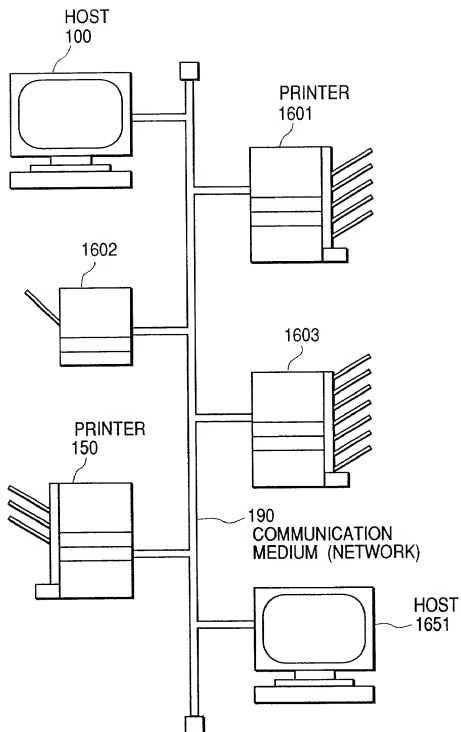
**FIG. 15**

FIG. 16



Year	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100
1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100	

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100	2101	2102	2103	2104	2105	2106	2107	2108	2109	2110	2111	2112	2113	2114	2115	2116	2117	2118	2119	2120	2121	2122	2123	2124	2125	2126	2127	2128	2129	2130	2131	2132	2133	2134	2135	2136	2137	2138	2139	2140	2141	2142	2143	2144	2145	2146	2147	2148	2149	2150	2151	2152	2153	2154	2155	2156	2157	2158	2159	2160	2161	2162	2163	2164	2165	2166	2167	2168	2169	2170	2171	2172	2173	2174	2175	2176	2177	2178	2179	2180	2181	2182	2183	2184	2185	2186	2187	2188	2189	2190	2191	2192	2193	2194	2195	2196	2197	2198	2199	2200	2201	2202	2203	2204	2205	2206	2207	2208	2209	2210	2211	2212	2213	2214	2215	2216	2217	2218	2219	2220	2221	2222	2223	2224	2225	2226	2227	2228	2229	2230	2231	2232	2233	2234	2235	2236	2237	2238	2239	2240	2241	2242	2243	2244	2245	2246	2247	2248	2249	2250	2251	2252	2253	2254	2255	2256	2257	2258	2259	2260	2261	2262	2263	2264	2265	2266	2267	2268	2269	2270	2271	2272	2273	2274	2275	2276	2277	2278	2279	2280	2281	2282	2283	2284	2285	2286	2287	2288	2289	2290	2291	2292	2293	2294	2295	2296	2297	2298	2299	2300	2301	2302	2303	2304	2305	2306	2307	2308	2309	2310	2311	2312	2313	2314	2315	2316	2317	2318	2319	2320	2321	2322	2323	2324	2325	2326	2327	2328	2329	2330	2331	2332	2333	2334	2335	2336	2337	2338	2339	2340	2341	2342	2343	2344	2345	2346	2347	2348	2349	2350	2351	2352	2353	2354	2355	2356	2357	2358	2359	2360	2361	2362	2363	2364	2365	2366	2367	2368	2369	2370	2371	2372	2373	2374	2375	2376	2377	2378	2379	2380	2381	2382	2383	2384	2385	2386	2387	2388	2389	2390	2391	2392	2393	2394	2395	2396	2397	2398	2399	2400	2401	2402	2403	2404	2405	2406	2407	2408	2409	2410	2411	2412	2413	2414	2415	2416	2417	2418	2419	2420	2421	2422	2423	2424	2425	2426	2427	2428	2429	2430	2431	2432	2433	2434	2435	2436	2437	2438	2439	2440	2441	2442	2443	2444	2445	2446	2447	2448	2449	2450	2451	2452	2453	2454	2455	2456	2457	2458	2459	2460	2461	2462	2463	2464	2465	2466	2467	2468	2469	2470	2471	2472	2473	2474	2475	2476	2477	2478	2479	2480	2481	2482	2483	2484	2485	2486	2487	2488	2489	2490	2491	2492	2493	2494	2495	2496	2497	2498	2499	2500	2501	2502	2503	2504	2505	2506	2507	2508	2509	2510	2511	2512	2513	2514	2515	2516	2517	2518	2519	2520	2521	2522	2523	2524	2525	2526	2527	2528	2529	2530	2531	2532	2533	2534	2535	2536	2537	2538	2539	2540	2541	2542	2543	2544	2545	2546	2547	2548	2549	2550	2551	2552	2553	2554	2555	2556	2557	2558	2559	2560	2561	2562	2563	2564	2565	2566	2567	2568	2569	2570	2571	2572	2573	2574	2575	2576	2577	2578	2579	2580	2581	2582	2583	2584	2585	2586	2587	2588	2589	2590	2591	2592	2593	2594	2595	2596	2597	2598	2599	2600	2601	2602	2603	2604	2605	2606	2607	2608	2609	2610	2611	2612	2613	2614	2615	2616	2617	2618	2619	2620	2621	2622	2623	2624	2625	2626	2627	2628	2629	2630	2631	2632	2633	2634	2635	2636	2637	2638	2639	2640	2641	2642	2643	2644	2645	2646	2647	2648	2649	2650	2651	2652	2653	2654	2655	2656	2657	2658	2659	2660	2661	2662	2663	2664	2665	2666	2667	2668	2669	2670	2671	2672	2673	2674	2675	2676	2677	2678	2679	2680	2681	2682	2683	2684	2685	2686	2687	2688	2689	2690	2691	2692	2693	2694	2695	2696	2697	2698	2699	2700	2701	2702	2703	2704	2705	2706	2707	2708	2709	2710	2711	2712	2713	2714	2715	2716	2717	2718	2719	2720	2721	2722	2723	2724	2725	2726	2727	2728	2729	2730	2731	2732	2733	2734	2735	2736	2737	2738	2739	2740	2741	2742	2743	2744	2745	2746	2747	2748	2749	2750	2751	2752	2753	2754	2755	2756	2757	2758	2759	2760	2761	2762	2763	2764	2765	2766	2767	2768	2769	2770	2771	2772	2773	2774	2775	2776	2777	2778	2779	2780	2781	2782	2783	2784	2785	2786	2787	2788	2789	2790	2791	2792	2793	2794	2795	2796	2797	2798	2799	2800	2801	2802	2803	2804	2805	2806	2807	2808	2809	2810	2811	2812	2813	2814	2815	2816	2817	2818	2819	2820	2821	2822	2823	2824	2825	2826	2827	2828	2829	2830	2831	2832	2833	2834	2835	2836	2837	2838	2839	2840	2841	2842	2843	2844	2845	2846	2847	2848	2849	2850	2851	2852	2853	2854	2855	2856	2857	2858	2859	2860	2861	2862	2863	2864	2865	2866	2867	2868	2869	2870	2871	2872	2873	2874	2875	2876	2877	2878	2879	2880	2881	2882	2883	2884	2885	2886	2887	2888	2889	2890	2891	2892	2893	2894	2895	2896	2897	2898	2899	2900	2901	2902	2903	2904	2905	2906	2907	2908	2909	2910	2911	2912	2913	2914	2915	2916	2917	2918	2919	2920	2921	2922	2923	2924	2925	2926	2927	2928	2929	2930	2931	2932	2933	2934	2935	2936	2937	2938	2939	2940	2941	2942	2943	2944	2945	2946	2947	2948	2949	2950	2951	2952	2953	2954	2955	2956	2957	2958	2959	2960	2961	2962	2963	2964	2965	2966	2967	2968	2969	2970	2971	2972	2973	2974	2975	2976	2977	2978	2979	2980	2981	2982	2983	2984	2985	2986	2987	2988	2989	2990	2991	2992	2993	2994	2995	2996	2997	2998	2999	3000
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COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY  
FOR PATENT APPLICATION

(Page 1)

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled PRINTING SYSTEM, METHOD FOR CONTROLLING PRINTING SYSTEM, AND COMPUTER-READABLE MEDIUM  
the specification of which ☒ is attached hereto ☐ was filed on \_\_\_\_\_ as United States Application No. or PCT International Application No. \_\_\_\_\_ (if applicable) and was amended on \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. §119(a)-(d) or §365(b), of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or §365(a) of any PCT international application which designates at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed

Country	Application No.	Filed (Day/Mo/Yr)	(Yes/No) Priority Claimed
JAPAN	10-242635	28 August 1998	YES

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. §120 of any United States application(s), or §365(c) of any PCT international application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT international application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application

Application No.	Filed (Day/Mo/Yr)	Status (Patented, Pending, Abandoned)
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I hereby appoint the practitioners associated with the firm and Customer Number provided below to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith, and direct that all correspondence be addressed to the address associated with that Customer Number

**FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO**  
Customer Number: 05514

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon

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